

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

and of John R. Rice

An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Sin, Modernism, and Denominational Overlordship

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Office: 201 East Tenth St., Phone 6-6888

"There Is No Difference For All Have Sinned"

BY JOHN R. RICE

"9. What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise; for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles that they are all under sin;

"10. As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one:

"11. There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

"12. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

"13. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

"14. Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

"15. Their feet are swift to shed blood:

"16. Destruction and misery are in their ways:

"17. And the way of peace have they not known:

"18. There is no fear of God before their eyes.

"19. Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them that are under the law; that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

"20. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight; for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

"21. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

"22. Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

"23. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

"God, I thank thee that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican," said the Pharisee when he went up to the temple to pray (Luke 18:11). And so says the whole world! "I am not as other men are!" All of us want to think that we are better than others, different from others. But God's Word thunders back that we are no better than others, no different than others, for there is no difference, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

No difference! No difference between the best moral man and the worst criminal, in the fact of sin. No difference between the most chaste and refined woman and the street walking harlot, in the fact of sin! No difference in the blue-bloods and the onion eaters, in the down and outs and the up and outs, for all have sinned. There is no difference, God says, between the church member and the ranting atheist in the fact that both are alike sinners. There may be differences between men in other matters. There are rich and poor, ignorant and learned, pleasing and repulsive, but all are alike sinners. Saved and lost are simply saved sinners and lost sinners, forgiven sinners and condemned sinners. So God's Word here declares. Reader, there is no difference between you and Judas Iscariot in the fact of sin. He went to Hell and you deserve to go, yea, will go unless you get cleansing and pardon and salvation. Doubtless millions are now in the fires and torment of Hell who were as good as you, as good outwardly, as good inwardly. They lived as well, they were as honest, they went to church as much, they prayed as much, they gave as much money and as much time and service. They loved their neighbors as well, were as kind to their families as you, and yet they are in Hell to-

Why We Must Preach About Sin

The Bible doctrine of sin is a foundation teaching absolutely necessary to understanding of other great doctrines of the Bible. "Christian Science," falsely so-called, denies the reality of the fact of sin. But that denial is neither scientific nor Christian. Sin is a scientific fact, an omnipresent, awful, damning, Hellish fact and it is the part of a fool to deny it. No wonder the Bible says, "Fools make a mock at sin" (Prov. 14:9). And the gospel of Christ is simply this, "that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures" (I Cor. 15:13), or that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (I Tim. 1:15). There can be no Christianity without admitting that all have sinned. So "Christian Science," so-called, is like the Guinea pig, which is neither pig nor guinea, or like grape-nuts, which contains neither grapes nor nuts; it is neither

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Carry On!

While I am away in revivals, I want to ask two groups to carry on to the glory of Christ.

First, let every reader possible, see that unsaved people read the evangelistic sermon in this issue. Pray that sinners will be saved. Tell us of any who are that we may rejoice. Then, readers of The Sword, I am offering you again the opportunity to send The Sword of the Lord to others at half price. Any number of yearly subscriptions for others may be sent 4 for \$1.00, either new subscriptions, or where one person is paying for others, real mission subscriptions. Please, old readers, pay the 50¢ a year or \$1.00 for three years. But get all the new ones you can at four yearly subscriptions for \$1.00. I will, God willing, make up the balance to pay the printer. How many subscriptions will you send?

Next, I ask the patience and prayerful help of Dallas people. Bro. Joe Rice, the pastor's brother, is preaching with blessing. Hear him, pray for him, hold up his arms. God is saving souls. Your pastor will be happy to know you are faithfully carrying on. Let every teacher and worker do his part, be in his place, and so honor God. And my burdened heart will be happy in Christ.

Your pastor,
John R. Rice.

A CHICAGO PASTOR WRITES

Sept. 15, 1938

"Dear Brother:

"I received a blessing from reading your sermon on 'God's Cure for Anxious Care.' I enjoy your papers. I preach some of your sermons.

Sincerely,

C. E. D.

"Good Investments"

Or "Wherefore Do Ye Spend Money For That Which Is Not Bread?"

Sunday night sermon of Evangelist Joe B. Rice at Fundamental Baptist Tabernacle, 201 E. Tenth Street.

Radio Service, WRR, 7:30 to 8:00.

Bible School, 9:30.

At 11:00 A. M. the subject will be, "Do We Believe the Bible?"

We are thanking God for His blessings on the services last Sunday morning. When the invitation was given a fine man was the first to come. He told me that he trusted the Lord in the Bible class that morning. He joined the church for baptism and his wife came by letter from another Baptist church. That night he gave a good testimony in the men's meeting and was baptized after the service. Two others came in the Sunday morning service claiming the Lord as Saviour and there were still others saved in the Sunday School who did not come to claim it publicly. People went away happy in the Lord.

Won't you help to make next Sunday's services a blessing to others? You can help first by praying for the services, second, by being in your place on time; third, by bringing a friend with you.

'Lord, I Can't Think of Anything Else to Say, But I Believe You Will Hear Me Anyway'

Hear Sam Morris Radio XEPN Three Times Daily

Our brother Sam Morris last Friday, October fourteenth, began his winter broadcast as *The Voice of Temperance* on the big Mexican border station, XEPN. He will be speaking three times daily. Tune in and hear him at 5 a.m., at 7 a.m., or at 8:30 p.m., Central Standard time. XEPN broadcasts at 730 kilocycles and you will find it at 73 or 730 on your radio.

These radio broadcasts are heard all over America, on ships at sea, on various islands, and in several foreign countries. God has blessed Brother Morris. He has hundreds of letters from people who have been turned from drunkenness by these broadcasts. Some have been wonderfully converted. We believe this ministry greatly honors God and we are happy that Brother Morris has many, many calls for revivals and Bible conferences when he is not on the air during summer months.

Remember that Brother Morris will be with us in the Dallas Bible School which will be held Thanksgiving week, the eight days of November twentieth to the twenty-seventh, from Sunday to Sunday.

Brother Morris writes, and says among other things:

"I am looking forward to a time of great refreshing at the Bible School. I'll be there for the kick-off the first Sunday and through Thanksgiving Day."

Hating Sin

"Do we really hate sin — hate it as God hates it? For sin is sin, and its wages is death, no matter how it is brought to us. God longs to have His holy hatred of sin burn in our hearts, for He knows that only thus are we safe. He can work the miracle of enabling us to hate it as He hates it. Even if a brother, or a son, or a daughter, or a wife, or a loved friend, brings sin to us invitingly, shall we put our human love above our hatred of the sin that God hates? There is a chapter in Deuteronomy, the thirteenth, which confronts Israel with exactly this question in this way. The chapter is not a long one, and is well worth reading in these days when the sensitiveness of God's people toward sin is liable to be dulled. Under the law, God's directions for dealing with sin in any and every form were stern, swift, uncompromising, and unsparing. He commanded that "there shall cleave nought of the cursed thing to thine hand"; and surely He has no lower a standard for Christians under grace than He had for Israel under the law.

That night he gave a good testimony in the men's meeting and was baptized after the service. Two others came in the Sunday morning service claiming the Lord as Saviour and there were still others saved in the Sunday School who did not come to claim it publicly. People went away happy in the Lord.

Let us look to Christ confidently for the miracle enabling us "to do that which is right in the eyes of the Lord thy God," at any cost, no matter who would turn us aside. Then, and then only, can we know the "joy unspeakable and full of glory" which is our birthright."

By Editor Charles G. Trumbull, in the "Sunday School Times."

The Editor of *The Sword of the Lord* is having a happy time in St. Paul, Minnesota, at this time (Tuesday, Oct. 18). The revival began here Sunday night in Temple Baptist Church, of which Rev. Murk is pastor. They have a beautiful new building in downtown St. Paul, with an auditorium seating about 600; more with extra chairs. The building was about full Sunday night. Though I gave no invitation to come forward, three held their hands for prayer that they might be saved, all adults. Two were converted, however. One, a woman who held her hand for prayer, told me at the door that she had really trusted Christ. Another, a nurse who left early to go on duty, in the anteroom was won by a fine Christian usher.

Last night, Monday night, the woman who trusted Christ the evening before, came out openly and two other ladies, grey-haired, came forward with tears to trust and claim Christ as Saviour. One of them said, as she came forward weeping, "Oh, I do take Christ as my Saviour. I do trust Him now!" The crowd was good. I expect scores to be saved.

Sunday afternoon we closed the revival at Windom Park Baptist Church in Minneapolis. There were a good number of conversions, in small groups; two, three or four at a time. The crowds were small relatively, hindered by dissension in the church of long standing. It is a small church, with some fine, earnest people and a fine pastor in Bro. Anderson. God revived discouraged and burdened people; many entered into plans for a soul-winning church there, and best of all, souls were saved.

Several delightful incidents come to mind. One was a boy of fifteen who was happily saved. He stubbornly refused to come to the front so I tried to see what was his trouble. I asked him if he admitted he was a sinner, and grudgingly he did. Then he finally agreed that he ought not to delay. Finally he agreed that we should pray for him to be saved. I prayed a simple prayer, then with my arms around him, asked him to pray. He said, "Lord, I know I am a sinner and I am sorry for it and I hope you'll forgive me. Lord, I can't think of anything else to say, but I believe you will hear me anyway." And the Lord did, evidently, as he confessed Christ, and, I understand, joined the church for baptism.

Just before the afternoon service Mr. Borden came for me and pastor Anderson to see a lost man. His grown daughter had been saved. He was at work on his car, though it was Sunday, and came in the house with hands and arms covered with black grease. His hands were so black that he stood all the time I talked to him and while we showed him the Scriptures — But when he trusted Christ, he said boldly, "I'll do that!" He had read John 5:24 aloud, putting his own name in, instead of "he" in the verse, and he surely knew what he was about. Praise God.

Husbands are wives were saved together. Two young women held out long, but gave up together, for Christ, one night. Brother Anderson won several.

We trust God will save many here in St. Paul, and we covet the prayers of all who long to see souls saved.

Don't miss our great Bible School at Dallas, eight days of blessings, November 20-27.

"There Is No Difference For All Have Sinned"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Christian nor scientific. Unwilling to accept the fact of sin, Christian Science sees no need of the atoning blood and denies it. Since it says there is no reality to sin, it thinks there is no reality to Hell and judgment also. Small wonder that it places a many-times-married woman on an equal with Jesus Christ and counts her silly book the key to the Bible and really more authoritative, a later divine revelation!

Why should Jesus die, if men are not sinners? Why should anybody try to save sinners if men are not sinners? And if they are only small sinners, and if they can correct and atone for their own sins, why the horrible sufferings of Jesus on Calvary? The death of Christ was a stupid blunder, a terrible senseless crime unless men are sinners, doomed to an awful Hell just like the Bible teaches.

The Bible teaching about sin is the only safeguard from false religions. Only the blood of Christ can solve the sin question. Self-righteousness, lodge membership, religious rites and ceremonies, human priesthood and other fake remedies will never satisfy the heart that has learned the truth about the awful depravity of the human heart—the fact that "there is no difference, for all have sinned." That is why God's Holy Spirit inspired this passage in the third chapter of Romans, "that all the world may become guilty before God" (verse 19), "by the law is the knowledge of sin," says verse 20, so Paul preached the law to show men that they were sinners and to stop the mouth of every self-righteous boaster, stop alibis and excuses, until all should see themselves guilty, condemned sinners before God.

Some preachers preach always on the love of God, and on trust-

ing in Jesus Christ, and those are wonderful themes. But the Bible that says "God is love" also says "Our God is a consuming fire," and that "God is angry with the wicked every day" (Psa. 7:11). There is as much in the Bible about Hell as about Heaven, and if we do not preach Hell, sinners will see no reason to seek Heaven. If we do not preach about sin and bring conviction of mind and heart and conscience about sin, men will not repent of sin, and cannot trust in Christ as a Saviour from sin. Great revivals from Heaven are always accompanied or preceded by deep conviction for sin. People who are not conscious of the guilt of sin will not confess and forsake sin nor make restitution nor repent.

Analysis of Romans 3:9-23

Analyze the passage at the head of this sermon, Romans Three, verses nine to twenty-three, and you will see how universally depraved and wicked all men are by nature and life.

First is the plain statement that all the Jews and all the Gentiles are sinners alike, that there is no difference. "What then? Are we better than others, not Jews? Is one race, one class, better than any other?" "No, in no wise," answers God through Paul's pen, "for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles that they are all under sin." Everybody who is not a Jew is a Gentile — there are only those two classes, Jews and non-Jews, and you, reader, are one or the other. And it makes no difference which you are, for you are a sinner. *There is no difference, all have sinned!*

It is important to see, also, that verses ten to eighteen simply repeat and emphasize verse nine. After stating the case that all alike are under sin, God brings fourteen indictments against the whole human race. Disregard the verse numbers and copy God's list and you will see that seven times and then seven times again, God brands man as naturally wicked and Godless and damned, with not one righteous person, not one that doeth good in the whole natural race, NO, NOT ONE! (Besides Jesus Christ, of course, who was not born of natural birth, but supernaturally without a human father, conceived by the Holy Ghost in the womb of the virgin).

1. "There is none that doeth good, no, not one." (vs. 10). There is not a one who keeps the righteous commands of God!

2. "There is none that understandeth." (verse 11). There is none that is even in tune with God by nature, to understand the things of God. The carnal mind is enmity against God. "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them for they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14).

3. "There is none that seeketh after God." (verse 11). Man is not righteous, does not understand God and His ways and worse yet, does not even seek after God nor try to find the goodness of God. What is wrong with man is not only that he is a sinner by nature, but that he is a sinner by choice as well!

4. "They are all gone out of the way." (verse 12). Here we find that the sinner not only does not seek God; he does deliberately go away from God. People are not led away from God, do not drift away, but go away of their own choice. Satan tempts us, but we have a wicked nature that gladly listens and cooperates with Satan's efforts to get us to sin. Sin comes from the heart, not from outside.

5. "They are together become unprofitable." (verse 12). Man is so far gone as to be unprofitable to God. God will never get back His investment in man, man can never pay his way, since by nature men are such sinners. Therefore any kind dealing toward man must be on the basis of God's unmerited mercy. There is no ground of justice by which man could claim anything but condemnation and destruction. So when a Christian worker does all he can do, even to dying for the Saviour who loves him, he must say, "I am an unprofitable servant" (Luke 17:10).

6. "There is none that doeth good, no, not one." (verse 12). Men do not think this is so. They think that men are good in some respects, even unsaved men, heathen men. But God says, "no, not one!" All man's goodness is a fake goodness, like Satan's ministers appear as angels of light. Men often, like the Pharisees, "outwardly appear righteous unto men but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity," Jesus said (Matt. 23:28). In God's sight even "the plowing of the wicked is sin" (Prov. 21:4). Even the prayer of the wicked is an abomination (Prov. 28:9). "The flesh profiteth nothing" (Jno. 6:63).

7. "Their throat is an open sepulchre." (verse 13). Like an open grave breathing out stench and foulness from decaying bodies, so is the wickedness of the human heart which pours forth from the throat.

8. "With their tongues they have used deceit." (verse 13). Lying comes naturally to the tongue of mankind. Children lie as soon as they can talk and deceit is in the heart even of babies.

9. "The poison of asps is under their lips" (verse 13). It is as natural for the human tongue to burn and hurt as it is for a poisonous snake (the adder) to bite. The poison in both is natural and inbred. "The tongue can no man tame: it is an unruly evil full of deadly poison," says James 3:8, and again, "And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and is set on fire of hell!" (James 3:6).

10. "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness" (verse 14). "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." "Those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart," Jesus said in Matt. 15:18. Four times out of these fourteen indictments God refers to organs of speech, "throat," "tongues," "lips," "mouth." What a revelation of the wickedness of man! Cursing, blasphemy, bitterness and strife come naturally from corrupt human hearts.

11. "Their feet are swift to shed blood." (verse 15). Mankind is a race of murderers. Cain was simply a natural man when he killed his brother. If you hold still the head of a baby just a few weeks old he will scream in anger at the restraint! Anger, hate, murder — that is the natural order when wicked human hearts bring forth their fruit. Every person living or who ever did live, save Jesus Christ alone, had feet that were inherently "swift to shed blood."

12. "Destruction and misery are in their ways." (verse 16). This is not evolution, it is "devolution." It is not man climbing upward, it is man degenerating. Human government, human culture, human morals, have an inescapable tendency toward destruction and ruin. The whole world is getting farther from God, with governments less stable, life and property less secure, homes less happy, and ruin inevitable for the race as a whole.

13. "And the way of peace have they not known." (verse 17). Man in himself does not know the secret of peace. "There is no peace saith my God to the wicked" (Isa. 57:21). Sin in the heart is responsible for all the unrest in homes and nations. War is the natural result of the human nature. Man can have no peace except he gets it from above, from outside himself.

14. "There is no fear of God before their eyes." (verse 18). The crowning climax of man's wickedness is that he does not fear God. Man doesn't do God's will, doesn't understand God, doesn't seek God, but goes headlong into sin and destruction. And in the midst of sin and ruin, man still does not fear God, mocks at the thought of judgment, scorns the idea of Hell and retribution!

Here Is God's Indictment, Seven Times and Seven-Times Again, Of the Whole Human Race

It proves what God said, "There is no difference for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." In this startling and terrible passage of Scripture, Romans nine to twenty-three, several things stand out with shocking plainness.

1. There is no exception: God counts everybody the same. He says again and again, "all," "all,"

"ALL!" All are under sin, all are gone out of the way, all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Likewise He says, "none," "none," "NONE!" There is none righteous, none that understands, none that seek after God, none that doeth good, and then God cries out to us, "NO, NOT ONE!"

2. Another thing that stands out in the passage is that the present tense is used again and again. God is talking about today and about our hearts talking to those of us who read this, this moment. All are under sin. None is righteous. The present tense is used throughout the passage and then God says, "There is (present tense) no difference!"

3. God's conclusion is that "therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight" (verse 20). It is utterly impossible for anybody to be saved, or partly saved, or kept saved by good deeds, by keeping God's law or commandments. Man simply cannot save himself, cannot be justified by his deeds. Every man, woman, and child is so incurably wicked by nature that he or she cannot be saved except by the mercy of God and through the merit of the atoning blood of Jesus Christ, the righteous.

Other Scriptures Prove Also That All Are Sinners

Do not think for a moment, dear reader, that this is an isolated passage and that it may be misinterpreted. No, the entire Bible is of the same tenor, and again and again God brings this charge that all alike are sinners, and that there is no difference, for all have sinned.

David, confessing the wickedness of his sin with Bathsheba, cries out in Psalms 51:5, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me."

In that inspired prayer of King Solomon when he dedicated the temple in Jerusalem he said, "For there is no man which sinneth not" (I Kings 8:46; II Chron. 6:36).

Isaiah 53:6 says, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way." There it is again, everyone!

Let us hear the words of Jesus Himself on this question. One came running to Jesus and said, "Good Master, what must I do that I may inherit eternal life," and Jesus said unto him, "Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is God!" (Mark 10:17, 18). "There is none good but one, that is God!" Jesus meant that He should not be called Master or Rabbi, but God, or the Son of God what He claimed to be, God, in human form. Unless Jesus was the very Son of God, then He was not good, for there is none good but God.

Do All Christians Sin?

There are some who say that they were once sinners, but now that they are saved, they are saved from sin and never sin any more. Some claim to be "sanctified" and to have "holiness;" some claim that the old sinful nature is altogether eradicated by a "second work of grace." But all such people are deceived. They may not want to sin and they may think they do not sin, but they do sin. The Scriptures

we have read say "all," "all," "ALL." Not only all have sinned, but all do sin. All are now under sin. There is even yet no difference in the fact of sin. So the Bible says and so we must believe.

In fact the saints of the Bible confessed, with great grief, their sin. Paul said (and it was the Holy Spirit who told him to say it and inspired it), "For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin" (Rom. 7:14).

"For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate that I do" (Rom. 7:15).

And again he says by divine inspiration,

"For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do." "Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me" (Rom. 7:19, 20).

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



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"There Is No Difference For All Have Sinned"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Paul cried out as many other earnest saints of God have, "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"

"I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin" (Rom. 7:24, 25).

Paul thanked God that through Jesus Christ at the second coming He would be delivered entirely from the power of sin, but repeats that at present "With the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin." Paul was saved, was an apostle, had been filled with the Holy Spirit, had laid down his life for the gospel, had been called up to paradise and had revealed to him things never before revealed to a human being, and yet Paul grieved that he still served with the flesh, the law of sin! Do you, poor, ignorant, immature child of God, think you are better than Paul?

John, the beloved disciple, wrote the book of First John when he was nearly a hundred years old. John who once had rested his head on the breast of Jesus, John who loved to call himself the "disciple whom Jesus loved," John to whom the Saviour in His dying agony committed His mother Mary, John who was filled with the Holy Ghost at Pentecost, who wrote five books of the New Testament, and who was the last apostle alive on the

earth, WAS STILL A SINNER! Writing by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit who told him what to say, John says in I John 1:8: "IF WE SAY THAT WE HAVE NO SIN, WE DECEIVE OURSELVES AND THE TRUTH IS NOT IN US."

John says in effect something like this: "If I should say that in this old heart of mine even this second there is no sin I would be fooling myself. Sin is there whether I know it or not. Although I am saved and forgiven, I am still a sinner." The only hope that John had for heaven was that Christ died for him, and paid for all his sins, and that is the only hope that anyone else has. If you say you have no sin, you are simply deceiving yourself and the truth is not in you. Let us beware lest we play the hypocrite and claim to be what we are not. Reader, there is no difference between you and the worse sinner on earth in the fact of sin. So teaches the Word of God from one end to the other.

If you think there are other Scriptures which contradict this teaching, you have misunderstood them. In every child of God there is part of the divine nature which does not sin, and God can put in the heart of His child a hatred for sin and a longing to please God, when He creates the new nature within us. But as long as we are in the flesh, that is until Jesus comes to change our vile bodies like unto His glorious body, or until death, we will be sinners.

Weak, Sick, Aging Bodies, Coming Death Proves We Are Sinners

And here is further proof of it, too: as long as Christians grow old, wear glasses, have bald heads or gray hair, or failing memories, or tottering steps, or imperfect health, that is positive proof that sin is still in the body and will bring forth its natural fruit which

"Wars and Rumors of War"

(Continued from last week)

Look For Christ and Rapture of His Saints Soon!

Now here are a few conclusions. Don't you tell me it is dry. Nothing in the Bible is uninteresting. Sometimes you may be uninterested, but the Bible is not uninteresting. Do you see that? I am not inventing these lessons. I am giving you what God has said. We are in dark days, the darkest this world ever saw. Those airplanes and tanks and big guns and submarines in Europe are not for nothing. No! No! But what must we look for? First of all, before some of these things take place as we read in Second Thessalonians 2:7: "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way."

One thing prevents the Man of

is death, if Jesus tarries. All sickness and disease and infirmity is the mark and product of sin and all are under sin as certainly as all are in imperfect or failing human bodies.

If one reads this who insists that you are not a sinner, then that simply goes to prove that you're so sinful you are blind to spiritual truth. Jeremiah 17:9 says "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it?" You do not know your own heart but are deceived. None of us can know the wickedness that resides inherently in our carnal natures. Millions of people have committed some ghastly sin and then have marveled and shuddered in surprise that they could ever do such wickedness. Whether you admit it or do not, whether you can see it or not, you, too, dear reader, are a sinner. You are a sinner whether forgiven or condemned. You are a sinner whether a Pharisee with hidden, unconfessed sin, or a publican with tearfully confessed sin.

Men All Sinners By Every Standard

Some man says, "Well, Brother Rice, I know I am not perfect, but I really try to live up to the ten commandments and I believe I will get by." In the first place why did you say "I try?" Because you know good and well you do not succeed! You do not keep the commandments and neither does any other person that ever lived except Jesus Christ.

The rich young ruler claimed to have kept all the commandments from his youth up, but when Jesus told him to go and sell his goods and give to the poor and come and follow Him, he turned away sorrowfully. He had great riches and his riches were his god. He had not even kept the first commandment: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." He did not love God with all his heart, mind, and soul and strength and he did not love his neighbor as himself. And neither do you!

You say that you never killed? But God answers back, "He that hateth his brother is a murderer" (I John 3:15), and you have had hate and grudges and unforgiveness in your heart and are a murderer in God's sight. Do you think you have not committed adultery? Then remember that Jesus said, "He that looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matt. 5:28). You see you are guilty in God's sight, who knows the heart. And you have stolen, too, for who is there who has not? Whether you have robbed God by withholding tithes and offerings, whether you have taken wages that you did not earn, or whether you have coveted in your heart that which was not yours, you have broken the commandment. You have broken all the law of God, but if you had broken one commandment God says that if you have broken one you are guilty of all.

(Continued next week)

Sin from being revealed and that is the Holy Spirit who works in the hearts of saved people. But one day the Holy Spirit will be taken away. When Jesus comes and the trumpet sounds there will go out a cry, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh" and the Bridegroom will come to take away His bride, the saved. After our elopement, during our honeymoon in Heaven, then the mystery that is working will suddenly blossom into its fullness and the Man of Sin will be revealed then. Who do you think he is? I do not know. No one does. I think very likely it is Mussolini. But if not him, it is some other man who will stand in his shoes in Italy. But I do not know. I can't know because nobody can know. He won't be revealed until Jesus comes and the rapture takes place, and the Holy Spirit who has been restraining, holding down — until He be taken away with us and brings us up to meet Jesus in the air and we stand before judgment seat of Christ for rewards and the wedding feast and we see the Father's house of many mansions. Nobody will know who the Man of Sin is until after the rapture when Jesus comes for His saints. Before the international army, a new United States of Europe under the Man of Sin takes it in his hands and seizes control and claims to be God on earth — before that can happen, what else must happen? Thank God, in the midst of darkness, war, crime, suicide, divorce and unbelief and atheism and wickedness everywhere; failing of churches and broken homes and doomed lives — in the

midst of it all an angel of God, in the midnight hour, will cry, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh," and I will go up to meet Him whom my soul loves — Jesus my Lord and Saviour!

We Cannot Change This Dark World — Let Us Win Souls

I started out years ago to change this world but I cannot change it. All I can do is to pull a few out of the fire. Jude says, "Others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh." I can save individuals but I can not save society or the nation or the world. The church can't; God Himself didn't plan for us to. We must give our testimony and get individuals saved but the Lord Jesus Christ Himself must fix this world, otherwise it can't ever be fixed. But Jesus will come and take away His own, first, before He returns to fix the world and rule it.

Watch! Jesus Is Coming!

I come now to the point of the message. I do not know when but I know why Jesus said, "Watch, therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh" (Matt. 25:13); and "When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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"Wars and Rumors of War"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21: 28). I know that before ten men meet around the council table Jesus must come! Before the international army gathers to rule the world, Jesus must come! Before the Jews build their temple in Palestine and the Man of Sin makes his covenant for seven years, Jesus must come and take away His own! That means, brother, we are at the ringing of the doorknob! I think it is now forty-five minutes past 11:00 o'clock. Midnight is coming soon. I don't set any dates but I do know the signs of His coming multiply. On every hand there are things that only one who understands and believes the Bible can understand. There are things happening in Europe and in America that nobody in the world can understand except He who sees the hand of God. He will do in future history what is already written down in His Word. Hallelujah. I know it will happen just like He said! Jesus is coming and I think He is coming soon.

I will catch a train tonight at 11:00 and go to Minneapolis. I have more than I can do. I never in my life was as close to overwork and a breakdown as I am now. I have more calls for revivals than I can fill and more than I can do. I cannot and must not turn them down. I don't know when Jesus is coming but I think it will be soon. He may come while I am gone so I tell you now because it may be my last chance: my friend, Jesus is coming and it may be at any moment, and I beg you — be ready! I leave here tonight — I would like to stay and raise the money for the Junior department and the new seats for the auditorium but I ought not to do it. You ought to do it. I tell you, I must go and warn people and save all the souls I can for

Jesus is coming. It may be ten years or twenty years or one year; it may be ten days or whether tonight as I am riding on that train up toward the North — I do not know when, but Jesus is coming. I feel it. I believe it and I know it. He is coming. How soon I cannot say. I am no judge. I am no prophet. I cannot say. I just know He is coming soon and I beg you to get ready.

There must be some reason why God puts on every front page of the newspapers about a flood in one state, a hurricane in New England, a train wreck in Montana — and wars and rumors of wars in every newspaper. There must be some reason why. God is calling men to repent. God is trying to wake up people. Praise God, "even so come, Lord Jesus." I am ready. Jesus is coming.

Well, there just remains one thing for me to say and that is this: if there is anything you need to do before Jesus comes, do it now. If there is anything you have to do, I would do it now. If you have anybody in your family unsaved — how many have? You had better be speaking to them and warning them that Jesus is coming. "The mystery of iniquity doth already work," and is working now. God has put it in the hearts of the kings and premiers and rulers to fulfill His will and give power to the beast. We see before our eyes the thing taking place. Oh, my friends, Jesus is coming.

Sinner, Be Saved Before Jesus Comes

Are you saved tonight? If you are not, occupied with foolishness, wickedness, tied up with money-making — what good will it be to you? You make your money and have it eaten up in taxes and die and leave it, or if you are saved, and Jesus comes, you will go and leave it. When Jesus comes you may have it conscripted by the Man of Sin. It will slip through your fingers like ashes after a while. You had better say, "Lord Jesus, this world is not my home. I am getting ready for a better home. I am going to meet Jesus."

Some way I feel at home down at the jail. (I guess it is because that is where I ought to be! Old Brother Zeoli every now and then would say, "I ought to be in Hell." Maybe I ought to be in Hell, too.) I tell you, my friends, every time I go down there and see the wickedness and heart-sick despair of those men who listen tearfully to the preaching and singing and testimony and are so eager to be saved, I tremble for you hard-hearted ones who are not moved by my preaching. Your consciences are seared as with a hot iron. Some of you are going to be left here, I fear, to face ruin and bloodshed and the wrath of the Man of Sin and crime and misery like the world never saw. Men will pray to die and cannot die in the tribulation time. You are going into that, unsaved man, if you do not take Christ as your Saviour. Jesus is coming! Turn today and be saved.

You say, "How can I be saved, Brother Rice?" It is easy. God has done it all.

"Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe,
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow."
Do you want to be saved? God loves you.

I talked to a woman in the jail this afternoon, and said, "God so loved you. Isn't that good news?" That poor, fallen woman in trouble, in sin, looked up at me and said, "Yes, it is!" One woman was converted this afternoon and she said, "Yes, that sure is sweet." I said, "He loved you enough to die for you." "You mean all my sin is paid for?" you ask. "Yes, it is." And, my friend, if you will turn your heart from sin and trust Jesus Christ you will be saved and all your sin will be blotted out.

"Oh weary soul, the gate is near,
In sin why still abide?
Both peace and rest are waiting here
And you are just outside."

A woman came to the Fry Furniture Building one night when we met there while this building was under construction. When I gave the invitation she stood and cried. I said, "Come on down. Do you want to be saved tonight?" She said, "Yes, but I can't forget all

I have done. I can't forget the way I have lived." But I said, "The Lord Jesus will forgive and forget and blot your sin out and take it as far as the east is from the west if you will trust Him with it." She came, and Christ saved her. He will save you if you will come to Him, surrendering, trusting.

If you are a sinner tonight, the Lord Jesus is the only hope for you. Don't you want peace tonight, happiness and salvation and want to know you have it? Don't you? God furnishes the Saviour, you furnish the sinner and the thing is done right then. God has already furnished the Saviour. The price has already been paid. Don't you want it tonight?

"If you are tired of the load of your sin,
Let Jesus come into your heart;
If you desire a new life to begin,
Let Jesus come into your heart.

"Just now your doubts give o'er,
Just now reject Him no more,
Just now throw open the door;
Let Jesus come into your heart."

Sinner, if you will trust Christ, won't you write John R. Rice, 201 E. Tenth Street, Dallas, Texas, and tell me? I will write you a personal letter, and will be so happy.

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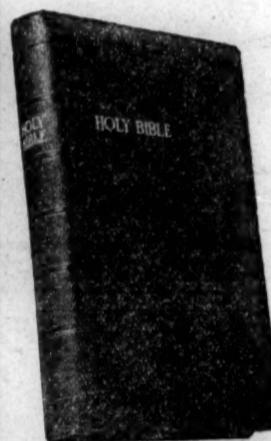
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Christ purgeth the temple

to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! 13 ¶ And the Jews' passover at hand, and Jesus went up to Salem, 48 Nā-thān'-ā-ēl saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus 14 And found in the temple

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